

In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

Applicant submits below a complete listing of the current claims, including marked-up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 1 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 1,~~ A method of converting a packet of data from a source format to a target format, the packet comprising a type indicator and at least one data field, the method comprising the steps of:
storing a table for each packet type, each table comprising for each data field of that packet type a value representative of a storage requirement in memory and a corresponding field descriptor denoting the nature of the data field;
receiving a packet in a source format;
identifying the type of packet from the type indicator;
accessing the stored table for the type of packet identified and thus obtaining for each data field a value representative of a storage requirement in memory and a field descriptor for that field;
using the value and the field descriptor to load the packet into a target memory according to the target format specified by the field descriptor; and
wherein the field descriptor denotes the nature of the data field as one of a used field and an unused field.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the field descriptor denotes the nature of a used field as one of a text field and an integer field.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 2, comprising the further steps of:
using a source pointer to identify each data field in the received packet;
determining whether the data field is used or unused;
where the data field is used, using a target pointer to identify a location in memory based on the value representative of the storage requirement in memory of that field and storing the field in the identified location in memory;
where the data field is unused, using a target pointer to identify a location in memory based on the value representative of the storage requirement in memory of that field and moving the target pointer to a new location in memory corresponding to the end of the storage requirement.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 1,~~ A method of converting a packet of data from a source format to a target format, the packet comprising a type indicator and at least one data field, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a table for each packet type, each table comprising for each data field of that packet type a value representative of a storage requirement in memory and a corresponding field descriptor denoting the nature of the data field;

receiving a packet in a source format;

identifying the type of packet from the type indicator;

accessing the stored table for the type of packet identified and thus obtaining for each data field a value representative of a storage requirement in memory and a field descriptor for that field;

using the value and the field descriptor to load the packet into a target memory according to the target format specified by the field descriptor; and

comprising the further step of, before storing the tables for each type of packet, creating a table for each type of packet.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 1,~~ A method of converting a packet of data from a source format to a target format, the packet comprising a type indicator and at least one data field, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a table for each packet type, each table comprising for each data field of that packet type a value representative of a storage requirement in memory and a corresponding field descriptor denoting the nature of the data field;

receiving a packet in a source format;

identifying the type of packet from the type indicator;

accessing the stored table for the type of packet identified and thus obtaining for each data field a value representative of a storage requirement in memory and a field descriptor for that field;

using the value and the field descriptor to load the packet into a target memory according to the target format specified by the field descriptor; and

wherein each table comprises a plurality of rows, one or more of which rows corresponding to a field of the packet type associated with the table, each row having two bits allocated as the field descriptor.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein each table comprises a further row having a value of zero for indicating the end of the packet.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein if both of the two bits are zero, the row corresponds to a used field which is an integer field.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein if a first of the two bits is zero and a second of the two bits is one, the row corresponds to a used field which is a text field.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein if a first of the two bits is one and a second of the two bits is zero, the row corresponds to an unused field.

11. (Canceled)